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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,580	03/11/2004	Anton Dietrich	3691-661	4818
23117 75	90 02/01/2006	EXAMINER		
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR		D.	PIZIALI, ANDREW T	
ARLINGTON,		N. Control of the con	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
,			1771	

DATE MAILED: 02/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

			4			
	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
	10/797,580	DIETRICH ET AL.				
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
	Andrew T. Piziali	1771				
The MAILING DATE of this communication app Period for Reply	ears on the cover sheet with the c	orrespondence ad	dress			
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DA  - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period w  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	ATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION 36(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tim rill apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from cause the application to become ABANDONE	N. nely filed the mailing date of this co				
Status						
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 De	ecember 2005.					
2a) ☐ This action is <b>FINAL</b> . 2b) ☑ This	action is non-final.					
	Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.					
Disposition of Claims						
4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdray 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected. 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or	vn from consideration.					
Application Papers						
9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner 10) ☑ The drawing(s) filed on 11 March 2004 is/are: a Applicant may not request that any objection to the o Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correcti 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Ex	a)⊠ accepted or b)□ objected to drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See ion is required if the drawing(s) is obj	e 37 CFR 1.85(a). ected to. See 37 CF	FR 1.121(d).			
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119						
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign a) All b) Some * c) None of:  1. Certified copies of the priority documents 2. Certified copies of the priority documents 3. Copies of the certified copies of the prior application from the International Bureau * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of	s have been received. s have been received in Application ity documents have been received (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	on No ed in this National	Stage			
Attachment(s)  1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  Notice of Professoratio Retent Province Regions (PTO 048)	4) Interview Summary	(PTO-413)				
Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)     Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)     Paper No(s)/Mail Date	Paper No(s)/Mail Da 5) Notice of Informal P 6) Other:		)-152)			

#### DETAILED ACTION

### Response to Amendment

1. The amendment and terminal disclaimer filed on 12/7/2005 have been entered. The examiner has withdrawn the objection to the specification based on the amendment to the specification. The examiner has withdrawn the double patenting rejections based on the submitted terminal disclaimer.

## Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- 3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
  - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 4. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over USPN 5,153,054 to Depauw.

Depauw discloses a coated article (see entire document including column 3, lines 21-37, column 6, lines 26-35, and column 7, lines 41-50) comprising a coating supported by a glass substrate wherein the coating comprises the following layers in the recited order from the glass substrate outwardly:

a zinc oxide layer

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a silver layer contacting the zinc oxide layer

a stainless steel oxide layer (inherently contains Cr) contacting the silver layer

a second zinc oxide layer contacting the stainless steel layer.

## Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-15, 17-22 and 24-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,837,361 to Glaser in view of USPN 5,153,054 to Depauw.

Regarding claims 1, 3-7, 9-15, 17-22 and 24-34, Glaser discloses (see entire document including column 3, lines 17-66 and column 4, lines 45-58) a coated article comprising a coating supported by a glass substrate, the coating comprising at least the following layers from the glass substrate outwardly:

a dielectric layer

a zinc oxide layer

a silver layer

a nichrome oxide layer

a dielectric layer

a zinc oxide layer

a silver layer

a nichrome oxide layer

a dielectric layer.

Glaser does not specifically mention adding a zinc oxide layer above one or more of the sacrificial nichrome layers, but Depauw discloses that it is known in the art to a add a zinc oxide layer above sacrificial metal layers to protect the silver layer from corrosion (see entire document

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including column 3, lines 14-37). Depauw even discloses that the location of the zinc oxide layer above the sacrificial metal layers is particularly important (column 4, lines 6-18). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place a zinc oxide layer above each of the overlying sacrificial metal layers, because the zinc oxide layers would protect the silver layer against corrosion.

Regarding claims 3, 9-14, 17, 24-29, 31 and 33, Glaser does not specifically mention heat treating the coated article, but Depauw discloses that it is known in the art to heat treat an article to make it suitable for automotive applications (column 4, lines 25-40). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to heat treat the article, because heat treating allows for use of the coated article in automotive glass applications.

Regarding claims 4-7, 19-22 and 30-33, Glaser discloses that the dielectric layers may comprise silicon nitride and/or a layer of tin oxide (column 3, lines 26-66).

Regarding claims 9-14, 17, 24-29, 31 and 33, considering that the coated article is substantially identical in terms of substrate, structure, layer materials, and layer thicknesses, compared to the claimed article (and the article taught by the specification) it appears that the coated article inherently possesses the claimed properties.

Regarding claims 12-14, 27-29, 31 and 33, Glaser discloses that the coated article may be laminated to another glass substrate (column 4, lines 25-33).

6. Claims 2 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,837,361 to Glaser in view of USPN 5,153,054 to Depauw as applied to claims 1, 3-7, 9-15, 17-22 and 24-34 above, and further in view of any one of USPN 6,316,110 to Anzaki or USPN 6,398,925 to Arbab.

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The applied prior art does not specifically mention adding aluminum to the zinc oxide layers, but Anzaki and Arbab each disclose that it is known in the art to add aluminum to zinc oxide layers that protect a silver layer from oxidation to improve adhesion to the silver layers and/or to make the zinc oxide layer conductive (see entire documents including column 1, lines 42-51 of Anzaki and column 4, lines 20-32 of Arbab). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the zinc oxide layers from any suitable zinc oxide material, such as zinc oxide comprising aluminum, because the aluminum improves adhesion to the silver layers and/or because the aluminum makes the zinc oxide conductive, and because it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability.

7. Claims 8 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,837,361 to Glaser in view of USPN 5,153,054 to Depauw as applied to claims 1, 3-7, 9-15, 17-22 and 24-34 above, and further in view of any one of USPN 6,472,636 to Baldwin or USPN 6,492,619 to Sol.

Glaser discloses that the first dielectric layer may comprise silicon nitride (column 3, lines 26-66), but Glaser does not appear to mention Si-rich silicon nitride. Baldwin and Sol each disclose that it is known in the art to use Si-rich silicon nitride dielectric layers because Si-rich silicon nitride layers reduce haze and/or improve mechanical durability (see entire documents including column 5, line 30 through column 6, line 14 of Baldwin and column 6, lines 15-65 of Sol). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a Si-rich silicon nitride dielectric layer for the first dielectric layer of Glaser, because Si-rich silicon nitride layers reduce haze and/or improve mechanical durability.

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8. Claims 1, 3-5, 9-15, 17-20 and 24-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,557,462 to Hartig in view of USPN 5,153,054 to Depauw.

Regarding claims 1, 3-5, 9-15, 17-20 and 24-34, Hartig discloses (see entire document including column 6, lines 23-67) a coated article comprising a coating supported by a glass substrate, the coating comprising at least the following layers from the glass substrate outwardly:

a silicon nitride dielectric layer

a silver layer

a nichrome oxide layer

a silicon nitride layer

a silver layer

a nichrome oxide layer

a silicon nitride layer.

Hartig does not specifically mention placing a zinc oxide layer directly below each silver layer while also placing a zinc oxide layer above the overlying sacrificial metal layers, but Depauw discloses that it is known in the art to place a zinc oxide layer directly below each silver layer while also placing a zinc oxide layer above the overlying sacrificial metal layers to protect the silver layer against corrosion (see entire document including column 3, lines 14-37, column 6, lines 26-35 and column 7, lines 41-50). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place a zinc oxide layer directly below each silver layer while also placing a zinc oxide layer above the overlying sacrificial metal layers, because the zinc oxide layers would protect the silver layer against corrosion.

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Regarding claims 3, 12-14, 17, 24-29, 31 and 33, Hartig does not specifically mention heat treating the coated article, but Depauw discloses that it is known in the art to heat treat an article to make it suitable for automotive applications (column 4, lines 25-40). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to heat treat the article, because heat treating allows for use of the coated article in automotive glass applications.

Regarding claims 9-14, 17, 24-29, 31 and 33, considering that the coated article is substantially identical in terms of substrate, structure, layer materials, and layer thicknesses, compared to the claimed article (and the article taught by the specification) it appears that the coated article inherently possesses the claimed properties.

Regarding claims 12-14, 27-29, 31 and 33, Hartig discloses that the coated article may be laminated to another glass substrate (column 1, lines 14-24).

9. Claims 2 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,557,462 to Hartig in view of USPN 5,153,054 to Depauw as applied to claims 1, 3-5, 9-15, 17-20 and 24-34 above, and further in view of any one of USPN 6,316,110 to Anzaki or USPN 6,398,925 to Arbab.

The applied prior art does not specifically mention adding aluminum to the zinc oxide layers, but Anzaki and Arbab each disclose that it is known in the art to add aluminum to zinc oxide layers that protect a silver layer from oxidation to improve adhesion to the silver layers and/or to make the zinc oxide layer conductive (see entire documents including column 1, lines 42-51 of Anzaki and column 4, lines 20-32 of Arbab). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the zinc oxide layers from

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any suitable zinc oxide material, such as zinc oxide comprising aluminum, because the aluminum improves adhesion to the silver layers and/or because the aluminum makes the zinc oxide conductive, and because it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability.

10. Claims 6-7 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,557,462 to Hartig in view of USPN 5,153,054 to Depauw as applied to claims 1, 3-5, 9-15, 17-20 and 24-34 above, and further in view of USPN 5,718,980 to Koch.

Hartig does not specifically mention a using a multi-layer dielectric layer, but Koch discloses that it is known in the art to use a silicon nitride dielectric layer or a multi-layer comprising a silicon nitride layer and a tin oxide layer (see entire document including column 3, lines 35-47). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the dielectric layer from any suitable dielectric material, such as a multi-layer of silicon nitride and tin oxide, because the multi-layer possesses the advantages of each layer, and because it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability.

11. Claims 8 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,557,462 to Hartig in view of USPN 5,153,054 to Depauw as applied to claims 1, 3-5, 9-15, 17-20 and 24-34 above, and further in view of any one of USPN 6,472,636 to Baldwin or USPN 6,492,619 to Sol.

Hartig discloses that the dielectric layers comprise silicon nitride (column 6, lines 23-46), but Hartig does not appear to mention Si-rich silicon nitride. Baldwin and Sol each disclose that it is known in the art to use Si-rich silicon nitride dielectric layers because Si-rich silicon nitride

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layers reduce haze and/or improve mechanical durability (see entire documents including column 5, line 30 through column 6, line 14 of Baldwin and column 6, lines 15-65 of Sol). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Sirich silicon nitride dielectric layers for the dielectric layers of Hartig, because Sirich silicon nitride layers reduce haze and/or improve mechanical durability.

12. Claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, 15, 17-20, 24-26, 30, 32 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,336,999 to Lemmer et al. (hereinafter referred to as Lemmer) in view of USPN 5,153,054 to Depauw.

Regarding claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, 15, 17-20, 24-26, 30, 32 and 34, Lemmer discloses (see entire document including Figure 2) a coated article comprising a coating supported by a glass substrate, the coating comprising at least the following layers from the glass substrate outwardly:

- a silicon nitride dielectric layer
- a silver layer
- a nichrome oxide layer
- a silicon nitride layer
- a silver layer
- a nichrome oxide layer
- a silicon nitride layer.

Lemmer does not specifically mention placing a zinc oxide layer directly below each silver layer while also placing a zinc oxide layer above the overlying sacrificial metal layers, but Depauw discloses that it is known in the art to place a zinc oxide layer directly below each silver layer while also placing a zinc oxide layer above the overlying sacrificial metal layers to protect

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the silver layer against corrosion (see entire document including column 3, lines 14-37, column 6, lines 26-35 and column 7, lines 41-50). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place a zinc oxide layer directly below each silver layer while also placing a zinc oxide layer above the overlying sacrificial metal layers, because the zinc oxide layers would protect the silver layer against corrosion.

Regarding claims 3, 9-11, 17 and 24-26, Lemmer discloses that the coated article may be used for automotive windows (column 1, lines 9-17), but Lemmer does not specifically mention heat treating the coated article. Depauw discloses that it is known in the art to heat treat an article to make it suitable for automotive applications (column 4, lines 25-40). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to heat treat the article, because heat treating allows for use of the coated article in automotive glass applications.

Regarding claims 9-11, 17 and 24-26, considering that the coated article is substantially identical in terms of substrate, structure, layer materials, and layer thicknesses, compared to the claimed article (and the article taught by the specification), it appears that the coated article inherently possesses the claimed properties.

13. Claims 2 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,336,999 to Lemmer in view of USPN 5,153,054 to Depauw as applied to claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, 15, 17-20, 24-26, 30, 32 and 34 above, and further in view of any one of USPN 6,316,110 to Anzaki or USPN 6,398,925 to Arbab.

The applied prior art does not specifically mention adding aluminum to the zinc oxide layers, but Anzaki and Arbab each disclose that it is known in the art to add aluminum to zinc

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oxide layers that protect a silver layer from oxidation to improve adhesion to the silver layers and/or to make the zinc oxide layer conductive (see entire documents including column 1, lines 42-51 of Anzaki and column 4, lines 20-32 of Arbab). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the zinc oxide layers from any suitable zinc oxide material, such as zinc oxide comprising aluminum, because the aluminum improves adhesion to the silver layers and/or because the aluminum makes the zinc oxide conductive, and because it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability.

14. Claims 6-7 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,336,999 to Lemmer in view of USPN 5,153,054 to Depauw as applied to claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, 15, 17-20, 24-26, 30, 32 and 34 above, and further in view of USPN 5,718,980 to Koch.

Lemmer does not specifically mention a using a multi-layer dielectric layer, but Koch discloses that it is known in the art to use a silicon nitride dielectric layer or a multi-layer comprising a silicon nitride layer and a tin oxide layer (see entire document including column 3, lines 35-47). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the dielectric layer from any suitable dielectric material, such as a multi-layer of silicon nitride and tin oxide, because the multi-layer possesses the advantages of each layer, and because it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability.

15. Claims 8 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,336,999 to Lemmer in view of USPN 5,153,054 to Depauw as applied to claims 1, 3-5, 9-11,

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15, 17-20, 24-26, 30, 32 and 34 above, and further in view of any one of USPN 6,472,636 to Baldwin or USPN 6,492,619 to Sol.

Lemmer discloses that the first dielectric layer comprises silicon nitride (see Figure 2), but Lemmer does not appear to mention Si-rich silicon nitride. Baldwin and Sol each disclose that it is known in the art to use Si-rich silicon nitride dielectric layers because Si-rich silicon nitride layers reduce haze and/or improve mechanical durability (see entire documents including column 5, line 30 through column 6, line 14 of Baldwin and column 6, lines 15-65 of Sol). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a Si-rich silicon nitride dielectric layer for the first dielectric layer of Lemmer, because Si-rich silicon nitride layers reduce haze and/or improve mechanical durability.

16. Claims 12-14, 27-29, 31 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,336,999 to Lemmer in view of USPN 5,153,054 to Depauw as applied to claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, 15, 17-20, 24-26, 30, 32 and 34 above, and further in view of any

Lemmer does not specifically disclose that the coated article may be laminated to another glass substrate (column 1, lines 14-24), but Hartig and Applicant's Disclosure each disclose that it is known in the art to laminate a coated article to another glass substrate to form an insulated glass window unit (see column 1, lines 13-24 of Hartig and [0003] of applicant's disclosure). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to laminate the coated article to another glass substrate to form an insulated glass window unit. Considering that the coated article is substantially identical in terms of substrate, structure, layer materials, and layer thicknesses, compared to the claimed article (and

one of USPN 5,557,462 to Hartig or Applicant's Disclosure.

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the article taught by the specification), it appears that the coated article inherently possesses the claimed properties.

## Response to Arguments

17. Applicant's arguments filed 12/7/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

## Regarding claim 34

The applicant asserts that Depauw does not disclose or suggest a layer comprising zinc oxide located over and contacting a layer comprising an oxide of Ni and/or Cr. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Depauw discloses a layer of zinc oxide located over and contacting a stainless steel oxide layer (column 3, lines 21-37). Stainless steel inherently possesses chromium (see cited dictionary definition of "stainless steel").

#### Regarding claims 1-34

The applicant asserts that Glaser in view of Depauw does not read on the claimed coated article because it would not have been obvious to replace the tin oxide layer of Glaser with the zinc oxide layer of Depauw because of unexpected results. The examiner respectfully disagrees.

Firstly, the examiner is unable to locate the portion of the rejection wherein it is suggested to replace the tin oxide layer of Glaser with the zinc oxide layer of Depauw. The applicant is requested to point to the portion of the rejection that suggests this specific substitution of layers.

Secondly, the alleged unexpected results mentioned in the specification occur upon heat treatment (see [0010], [0018], [0030], [0031], and the Example). None of the independent claims mention the article being heat treated.

Thirdly, the applicant has failed to show that the alleged unexpected results are related to the zinc oxide layer (22). The current specification compares the coated article of Examples 1-3 of USPN 6,686,050 to Lingle (see Figure 5 of USPN 6,686,050) with the coated article in Figure 1 of the current specification. The coated articles are wildly different. The applicant has failed to show, or attempt to show, that the alleged unexpected results are due to zinc oxide layer.

Fourthly, the alleged unexpected results mentioned in the specification are not unexpected. The specification asserts that the zinc oxide layer (22) unexpectedly results in one or more of higher visible transmission, improved thermal stability, lower sheet resistance, and lower emissivity (all upon heat treatment). Depauw teaches that these results are not unexpected. Depauw discloses that a zinc oxide layer, located in an identical position to that currently claimed (above the top silver layer while being sandwiched between a sacrificial metal layer and a top dielectric layer), results in an article with high visible transmission, improved thermal stability upon heat treatment, and low emissivity (see entire document including column 4, lines 6-40, column 5, lines 37-46, column 6, lines 17-25, and column 9, lines 3-10). Depauw even discloses that the location of the zinc oxide layer above the sacrificial metal layers is particularly important (column 4, lines 6-18).

The applicant asserts that the reasons for the alleged unexpected results are not entirely clear and that the results are "very surprising" especially because a (sacrificial) layer is provided between the zinc oxide layer and the silver (see [0031]). Not only does Depauw disclose that the results are expected, Depauw at least partially explains the reason for the results. Depauw discloses that the zinc oxide layer may diffuse through the sacrificial layer to effect a degree of passivation of the silver (column 4, lines 6-18).

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#### Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew T. Piziali whose telephone number is (571) 272-1541. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on (571) 272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ANDREWT, PIZIALI

atp PATENT EXAMINER